

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 07346 271641Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SP-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 SS-15 USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-04

FAA-00 WRD-01 SCCT-01 OC-01 /079 W
----- 004805

R 271600Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7555

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 7346

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR EG SF OGEN

SUBJECT: VC-10 HIJACKING: MISCELLANEOUS ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

1. AMERICAN FEMALE PASSENGER, LINDA LEE BAARSLAG, REPORTED
TO US THAT SHE TOLD THE HIJACKERS THAT IF THEY KILLED HER
BOYFRIEND, DANIEL BIRCH, SHE WOULD SCREAM AND RAISE A
TERRIBLE RUCKUS. THUS, PLUS FACT THAT GUITAR OWNED BY
BIRCH CREATED A BOND BETWEEN HIM AND A GUITAR-PLAYING
HIJACKER, COULD HAVE HELPED SPARE BIRCH'S LIFE. HIJACKERS
HAD IDENTIFIED NATIONALITIES OF PASSENGERS BY THEIR PASSPORTS
AND AT EARLY STAGE HAD SEPARATED BRITISH PASSENGERS FROM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 07346 271641Z

THE REST.

2. CONSENSUS IS THAT REASON GERMAN PASSENGER WAS KILLED WAS THAT HIJACKERS WERE FURIOUS AT DISCOVERY SATURDAY MORNING THAT 13 FEDAYEEN IN CAIRO HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO TUNIS, CONTRARY TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY LOCAL TAP NEWS AGENCY NIGHT BEFORE. TAP EVIDENTLY HAD THOUGHT THAT THESE 13 WERE ON PLANE WHICH BROUGHT FEDAYEEN LEADERS ABU IYAD, RIBHI AWAD AND ABU MAHER FROM CAIRO. AS A RESULT OF TAP REPORT, KEY TAP OFFICIAL HAS BEEN FIRED.

3. PASSENGERS REPORT THAT HIJACKERS CAREFULLY CONSULTED WRITTEN ORDERS WHICH THEY HAD IN THEIR POSSESSION BEFORE MAKING KEY MOVES. ACCORDING TO PILOT OF DUTCH PLANE WHICH BROUGHT TWO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS FROM HOLLAND, LATTER LOOKED LIKE REAL PROS -- DEDICATED AND DISCIPLINED.

4. ONE DANISH PASSENGER STATED THAT AFTER AWHILE PASSENGERS HAD PERMISSION TO GET UP TO GO TO TOILET AT WILL, AND ONE NIGHT HE FOUND HIMSELF WALKING DOWN AISLE PAST FOUR HIJACKERS SOUND ASLEEP WITH THEIR WEAPONS EXPOSED. HE RESISTED THE PREDICTABLE IMPULSE AS BEING FOOLHARDY.

5. AT DUBAI, AFTER HIJACKERS HELD PERSON AT GUNPOINT AS HOSTAGE TO INSURE RETURN OF PILOT TO AIRCRAFT, PILOT HAD DIFFICULTY RETURNING TO AIRCRAFT. TWICE DUBAI SECURITY REFUSED PERMISSION FOR HIM TO LEAVE BUILDING DESPITE HIJACKER THREAT. EVENTUALLY HIGH BRITISH OFFICIAL HAD TO INTERVENE.

6. JUST BEFORE REMAINING PASSENGERS WERE TO BE RELEASED FROM AIRCRAFT AND BEFORE TWO DUTCH-HELD TERRORISTS WERE TO BE RELEASED FROM DUTCH AIRCRAFT TO GO ABOARD VC-10, SERIOUS CONTRETEMPS OCCURRED BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI AND DUTCH AMBASSADOR. HIJACKERS WERE INSISTING THAT ONE DUBAI MAINTENANCE MAN, WHO HAD BEEN CAUGHT ON PLANE IN DUBAI WHEN HIJACKERS ORIGINALLY ATTACKED IT, REMAIN WITH HIJACKERS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO SERVE AS INTERPRETER WITH PILOTS. DUTCH AMBASSADOR INSISTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO EXCHANGE ONLY ON CONDITION ALL RPT ALL PASSENGERS RPT PASSENGERS RELEASED. CHATTI, ON OTHER HAND, ARGUED THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 07346 271641Z

TUNISIAN GOVT. WOULD GUARANTEE SAFETY OF DUBAI MAINTENANCE MAN AND THAT HE NEEDED ON AIRCRAFT. QUESTION FINALLY RESOLVED WHEN IT DEVELOPED THAT ONE OF DUTCH-HELD PALESTININIANS SPOKE ENGLISH, WHEREUPON UAE NATIONAL (OF PANESTINIAN ORIGIN) WAS RELEASED.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, TERRORISTS, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS07346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740345-0435
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974116/aaaaaekq.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by boyleja>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <22 JUN 2005 by papenddr>; APPROVED <22 JUN 2005 by blochd0>; APPROVED <22 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VC-10 HIJACKING: MISCELLANEOUS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, OGEN, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005